

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 11823 020915Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-13 DPW-01 RSR-01 /119 W

----- 103687

O P 020740Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3973

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11823

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR VS

SUBJECT: ICCS: MISSING CANADIANS

REF: A. SAIGON 11790 B. SAIGON 11788 C. SAIGON 11758

1. SUMMARY. WHILE PRG DENIES TO DATE THAT TWO MISSING CANADIANS ARE BEING HELD BY PRG FORCES, LATEST RESPONSE FROM PRG TPJMC DELEGATION, IN ANSWER TO ICCS CANDEL REQUEST FOR COOPERATION, INDICATES PRG INTENDS TO USE INCIDENT TO FULLEST ADVANTAGE. END SUMMARY.

2. AS OF COB JULY 1, ICCS MEMBERS AND/OR CANDEL REPS HAD MET NINE TIMES WITH PRG DELEGATION MEMBERS TO TPJMC TO ASCERTAIN FATE OF TWO MISSING CANADIANS AND SECURE THEIR RELEASE. THROUGHOUT DISCUSSIONS TO DATE, PRG HAS REFUSED TO CONFIRM THAT THEIR FORCES HOLD THE MISSING MEN. FURTHERMORE, PRG HAS INCREASINGLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 11823 020915Z

EVIDENCED ITS INTENTION TO USE INCIDENT TO THEIR FULLEST

ADVANTAGE.

3. IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF ICCS MILITARY COMMITTEE, HUNGDEL'S GEN SZUCS MET WITH PRG TPJMC DELEGATION CHIEF GEN TUAN IN AFTER-NOON MEETING JULY 1 AND TUAN MADE ORAL STATEMENT OF PRG CONDITIONS FOR COOPERATION. CAN DEL HAS SUPPLIED EMBASSY WITH COPY OF PRG'S STATEMENT ON STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS. FOR THE PRESENT, CANDEL WANTS TO AVOID ANY PRESS COVERAGE.

4. STATEMENT OF PRG CONDITIONS READS AS FOLLOWS:

A. THAT THE CDN DEL MUST CONFIRM TO PRG/RSVN THAT THIS MATTER IS NOT RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOLS; NOT RELATED TO THE TPJMC; AND NOT RELATED TO PRG/RSVN AS A MEMBER OF THE TPJMC; THAT THE PRG HAVE NO RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS MATTER AND IS NOT TIED TO THE MATTER BECAUSE THIS WAS A PRIVATE TRIP BY THE CDN OFFICERS.

B. THAT THE CDN DEL MUST REQUEST THE PRG TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION; IF POSSIBLE TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION; AND TO ASSIST THE SEARCH IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. THE CDN DEL MUST FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS DUE TO THE GOODWILL AND ASSISTANCE OF THE PRG.

C. THAT THE CDN DEL MUST APPROACH THE RVN SIDE AND REQUEST THE RVN SIDE FOR AN OFFICIAL GUARANTEE THAT PRG LO'S SHALL ENJOY COMPLETE SAFETY GUARANTEES FOR COMPLETE SAFETY DURING THEIR TRIP TO THE PRG/RSVN AND DURING THE WHOLE SEARCH; AND THERE WOULD BE NO ATTACKS ON THE AREAS WHERE THE PRG LO'S GO NEITHER BY ARTILLERY NOR BY INFANTRY NOR FROM THE AIR. END OF PRG CONDITIONS STATEMENT.

5. CANDEL FINDS PARA A. OF PRG STATEMENT TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE, PARTICULARLY IN DENYING PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES TO THE MISSING MEN AS GUARANTEED UNDER ARTICLE 12 OF THE PROTOCOL AND IN ENHANCING STATUS OF PRG. (CANDEL POLITICAL ADVISER THOUGHT PRG HAD ATTEMPTED TO GET SAME SORT OF STATEMENT SIGNED AT TIME OF RELEASE OF CANADIAN DETAINEE IN HANOI). PARAS B. AND C. COULD BE ACCEPTED THOUGH CANDEL CONCERNED ABOUT SPECIFIC LOCATION OF "AREAS" IN PARA C. WHERE PRG LO'S MIGHT GO.

6. POLDEL AMB. WASILEWSKI TOLD EMBOFF DURING JULY 1 CANADIAN NATIONAL DAY PARTY THAT THE SAME TWO MISSING MEN HAD ALREADY BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 SAIGON 11823 020915Z

INVOLVED ONCE BEFORE IN AN "UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT". ACCORDING TO WASILEWSKI, THESE TWO MEN HAD MET WITH PRG REPS IN SIMILAR FASHION SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. AT THAT TIME, THEY AGREED TO MEET WITH PRG THE NEXT DAY BUT FAILED TO SHOW. INSTEAD, ARVN ARTILLERY FIRE FLATTENED AREA AT AGREED TIME OF MEETING.

7. COMMENT: WHILE TWO MISSING MEN MAY HAVE INCURRED PRG WRATH IN THE PAST; IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT PRG WOULD DELIBERATELY

DO THEM PHYSICAL HARM. GREATEST DANGER MIGHT AT THIS TIME DEVELOP
IN ARVN UNITS TRY TO LIBERATE THEM. CANDEL GEN. MCALPINE WAS
SCHEDULED TO FLY INTO BIEN HOA AT 0300 JULY 2 BECAUSE HE HAD
HEARD REPORTS THAT ARVN BATTALION WAS MANUEVERING IN GENERAL
VICINITY OF MISSING MEN WITH POSSIBLE INTENT TO MAKE
LIBERATION ATTEMPT. EVEN IF ALL SIDES REMAIN COOL, EMBASSY
DOES NOT FORESEE EASY EARLY RELEASE OF THE MEN.

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